

Preliminary Amendment
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REMARKS

The above amendments do not add any new matter and do not address issues related to patentability. Rather the amendments are made to place the claims in more suitable form for US prosecution. Favorable consideration of this application is requested. Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned by phone for prompt resolution of any outstanding issues. It is believed that no fee is due for this Preliminary Amendment, however, if such a fee is due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fee, or credit overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0615.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the claims

3. (Amended) A sensing apparatus according to claim 1 [or claim 2], wherein the sensing apparatus further comprises an actuatable port means, openable to release the separable elements.
4. (Amended) A sensing apparatus according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1, wherein the separable elements each comprise a rigid casing with a sealable aperture, the casing surrounding data storage means in which the acquired data is stored for transfer to the surface.
6. (Amended) A sensing apparatus according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1, wherein the separable elements are spherical.
8. (Amended) A sensing apparatus according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1, wherein the housing of the sensing apparatus and casings of the separable elements are formed from plastics material or metal.
9. (Amended) A sensing apparatus according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1, wherein the separable elements are configured to be either neutrally buoyant or buoyant, in relation to well fluids.
10. (Amended) A sensing apparatus according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1, wherein the separable elements have a diameter in the range of 1 to 10cm.
11. (Amended) A sensing apparatus according to [any of the claims 1 to 9] claim 1, wherein the separable elements have a diameter in the range 1 to 5cm.
12. (Amended) A sensing apparatus according to [any of the claims 1 to 11] claim 1, wherein the data is encrypted prior to transfer to the separable elements.